



LTC # 192-2015

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor Philip Levine and Members of the City Commission
FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager
DATE: May 6, 2015
SUBJECT: Tree Pruning and Swale Plantings in Public Right-of-Ways

This following Letter to Commission is to address deviations between past practices and the Miami Beach City Code. The Public Works Department has performed a Code Review. According to Code Sections 98-166 and 126-6, maintenance of landscape material along the roadway is the responsibility of the adjacent property owner, up to the centerline of the right-of-way. However, it may not be appropriate to have property owners maintain median plantings with the associated traffic and safety concerns. The Administration recommends the following be performed by the abutting property owner in accordance with City Code:

- Mowing of grass areas in the swale portion of the right-of-way.
- Pruning of all trees and shrubs located in the right-of-way swales.

The only exceptions involve utility clearance pruning, utility excavation work, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED,) or for emergency purposes, in which case the work shall be performed by City of Miami Beach staff, Florida Power and Light staff, and or a City approved ISA Certified tree pruning contractor. The Greenspace Management Division will make themselves available to assist with information on Best Practices to ensure that the pruning that is performed is in accordance with ANSI A-300 pruning guidelines, the Miami Beach Tree Preservation Ordinance, and good horticultural practices.

Any and all proposed plantings or tree removals located in the right-of-way swales currently require a permit and written approval from the Public Works Department's Right-of-Way Division, with review and approval from the Greenspace Management Division, this practice will continue.

Should you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Eric Carpenter at (305) 673-7080, ext. 6012.

JLM/MT/EC/JF/RK